RNA FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE HEIGHTS

RIVERVIEW Neighborhood Association

June, 1998

232 Ogden Avenue - Jersey City, N.J. 07307 - (201) 798-0493

RNA IS NOT AFFILIATED WITH ANY POLITICAL PARTY, ORGANIZATION OR ELECTED OFFICIAL

RNA's 14TH ANNUAL OUTDOOR FLEA MARKET

RNA's springtime flea market is less than a week away. It will be held on Saturday, June 6th between the hours of 9AM and 4PM in Riverview-Fisk Park. (The raindate is the following Saturday, June 13th). All interested vendors who have not yet sent in their fee, must sign up on the morning of the event and pay $20.00 in cash only.

In addition to the marvelous bargains and sales, there will be local entertainment, activities for the children, and a few surprises as well. There will also be several food vendors to whet your appetites.

To make this event as successful as past years, RNA asks our neighbors, members and friends to help in the following ways:

RNA TABLE: RNA will sell your donated items to help finance our community activities. Please look around your home or apartment for various items that you are not using or not in need of anymore. All items, including clothing, should be in fairly good condition. Please bring these items to the RNA Table, located north of the park pavilion, the morning of the flea market.

CAKE AND COFFEE TABLE: All kinds of homemade and store bought goods will be accepted for our cake sale. These baked products should be brought to the coffee table the morning of the flea market on disposable pans or plates.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: People are needed to manage these tables during the day. People are also needed to clean up the Park early in the morning and after the event is over.

If you would like to volunteer for any of the above activities, please call **Maria Tuzzo at 659-2245** or fill out the form below and return to her at **170 Ogen Avenue**:

NAME: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

DONATION OR BAKED GOOD :_____

VOLUNTEER ON DAY of EVENT:_____

FLEA MARKET JAMBOREE

There will be a full schedule of live entertainment at our June 6th Flea Market. Joey George our resident impresario has coordinated a variety of local talent to perform in the Park throughout the day. The following is a list of the performers:

12 Noon: Scarpa Magic
1:00: Soul Stompers Drill Team
2:15: PUP band with Ken Krasner
3:00: Babies band
3:30: Joey George
4:15: Joy Seed

LIVE SUMMER CONCERTS IN RIVERVIEW- FISK PARK

The Jersey City Department of Recreation and Cultural Affairs will represent two live concert events in Riverview-Fisk Park this summer.

Wednesday, July 1 at 6:00 PM, there will be a live music concert by **Deborah Ann Rivera**. She will perform original jazz and latin fusion music.

Thursday, August 6th at 7:00 PM, the **Hudson Shakespeare Company** will perform a production of the **"Comedy of Errors."**

Both events are free and will take place in the pavilion. We ask that you bring your own seating. We are in the process of closing the portion of Ogden Avenue running through the Park for these two events.

RNA is also working to schedule additional music events throughout the summer in the Park. If people are interested or have suggestions for these events, please come to our next meeting.

STATE HIGHWAY PROJECT

RNA has been invited to participate as a member of the local Project Advisory Committee (PAC) for the N.J. Department of Transportation's rehabilitation project of the State Highway from Palisade Avenue to Kennedy Blvd. The plan calls for the widening of the present roadway and construction of a larger air duct between the two lanes. The project will cost approximately $140 million and will be performed in three separate phases starting in1999 and going through 2002. It will be funded by the Federal Highway Adminstration.

The Sgt. Anthony Park Association, who has been instrumental in drawing attention to the traffic problems at the intersection of the Highway and Palisade Avenue, is concerned that the project has the potential of increasing pollution and traffic flow in the local neighborhood.

The first meeting is scheduled for June 10, 1998.

MEETING MINUTES: MAY 12, 1998

HARBORVIEW HEALTH CARE FACILITY: Amy Montgomery as Director of Recreation is in charge of volunteers at the 180 bed senior facility located in our neighborhood on the corner of Ogden and Franklin. She asked for local people to volunteer and spend some quality time with the residents. She related the difference it can make in the lives of the residents to have neighbors come and visit with them. The time can be spent talking, reading or participating in any of the center's organized activities. She urged any person with the time and energy to befriend a senior.

RNA also suggested that we should organize joint ventures with the Center, such as inviting the seniors to spend the day at our June 6th flea market in the Park. For more information, call **Amy Montgomery** at **963-1800**.

FLEA MARKET: Maria Tuzzo gave an update on our upcoming flea market. Joey George has secured a sound system for musical entertainment and announcements. Once again, Tony Scarpa from SDS Bicycle Shop on Palisade Avenue will donate 2 small bikes for our raffle. In addition, he will also be performing some of his magic during the day.

RNA is looking for donations for our own table, a case of bottled water and baked goods. We are also looking for someone to make balloons and face paint for the children. As usual we also need volunteers in the morning and late afternoon for clean-up. We also need a person to act as M.C. to announce the day's events. For more information, call **Maria Tuzzo** at **659-2245**.

FINANCES: RNA Treasurer **Carol Rebelowski** gave a monthly report. At present we have two bank accounts, a business account and a Park account. The membership approved the payment of several bills, including $104.50 for the printing of the March newsletter and a cash advance of $50.00 for the upcoming flea market.

An automatic stapler was donated by a new neighbor.

COMMUNITY POLICING: **Sgt. Lissi** gave the following updates in the monthly police report. A local stalker has finally been arrested and is presently incarcerated. There are plans to set-up a speed zone check point on Ogden Avenue between Griffith and Bowers through Riverview-Fisk Park. The 10:00 PM curfew for youngsters is being enforced. Because of their recent success in curtailing local burglaries, the NTF patrols will return to their usual afternoon to evening hour tours starting May 26th.

Officer Charles Laziere was introduced to the group as a new member of the NTF patrol. Sgt. Lissi also indicated that the North Precinct might be getting more officers with 26 new police cadets graduating from the police academy.

A request was made for our two local NTF officers, Tosado and Schnee to attend the June 6th flea market. Their participation last year made the event a great success.

There was another request for the police to keep the cliffside homeless settlement between Paterson Plank Road and the Conrail embankment in check.

An Ogden resident asked the police to talk to one of her neighbors to park their vans on their own property instead of taking up valuable street parking.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES: **Joan Earls** is the Director of Department of Recreation and Cultural Affairs. She is also a long time local resident, good neighbor and RNA member. At the meeting, she announced and distributed pamphlets for the upcoming recreation programs scheduled for the neighborhood parks throughout Jersey City.

The recreation program for Riverview-Fisk Park will be from Monday to Friday , 4:30 to 9:00. It will run from May to September.

Jose Fontanez will be the on-site coordinator again this year. The sports program will start with three coaches and an additional person to supervise games for the younger children. An extra person is available if warranted.

Our Park Attendant asked whether Ogden Avenue running through the Park could be closed during the summer as was the case many years ago. Joan responded that closing the street would be inconvenient for residents and dangerous without someone to redirect the local traffic. However, she said she would be willing to discuss the possibility of closing the street for several hours one or two times a week on a experimental basis. Kevin Sluka, the Director of Public works said he would help to coordinate it if requested.

For more information on summer programs, Joan Earls can be contacted at **547-5269**.

WARD C COUNCILPERSON **Arnold Bettinger** was an unexpected but welcome guest at our meeting. He has been walking his district on a weekly basis with NTF officers and the NID addressing problems and meeting with constituents. New construction projects in the ward include a court building on Summit and Newkirk,

a senior housing complex and day care center on Baldwin and County Road and a hotel on Journal square has been bought for conversion for residential rentals.

To expedite problem areas, Bettinger with his aide **Jim King**, has been working with the Incinerator Authority to clean up local sites and then charging the expense to the owners. There were 373 drug arrests in a 36 day period; of which one half have been out of town buyers. A $1,000.00 fine has been imposed on these individuals to discourage repeat offenses.

Bettinger also reported on a meeting concerning the over proliferation of jitney vans in our area. Captain Meyers has set up roving patrols to issue motor vehicle violatons to offending drivers on Palisade Avenue and Kennedy Blvd. The State has also been contacted on this issue because the vans are state licensed.

Councilman Bettinger can be reached at **547-5159 or 5204**.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS Director Kevin Sluka announced the following projects in our neighborhood.

1. Janet Moore Park (at the corner of Ogden and Cuneo): The City will install a cyclone fencing along two sides of the existing fence to prevent vandalism and entry into the Park after it is closed in the evenings. Tree guards w ill be installed around the trees bordering the Park and chicken wire will be used to protect the trees inside the Park. A area of the Park will be designated as a garden and closed off with a picket fence. Sod will be planted in the triangular sections and the existing hostas plants will be transplanted to this garden area.

2. Palisade Treescape Program: The second phase of this program will begin this week with the planting of 31 trees and 36 rails and gratings installed. The City will plant kwanzan cherry, which is a flowering, non-fruit bearing tree.

[It appears that there will be a surplus from the original $50,000.00 grant for this program. RNA will begin discussions with the membership to decide how best to utilize this money for our community. Initial suggestions include a community bulletin board in the Park and tree plantings on the side streets.]

3. Woods Place: The City will remove the southern sidewalk on this street located between Palisade and Ogden to accomodate additional parking.

4) Bowers Street: The faded yellow line divider on Bowers between Ogden and Palisade will be repainted for the busy two-way traffic. A request was made to install two stop signs at the intersection of Bowers and Ogden.

5) Street Repaving: Palisade Avenue will be repaved by the end of this year. Requests were put in to repave Hobson and Ferry Streets between Palisade and Ogden.

6. New York Avenue: Kevin announced the following repairs scheduled for this cliff road. The replacement for the missing highway barrier has been delivered and will be installed shortly. The repair of the roadside fencing will be put into next year's budget. [PSEG will schedule the repair of the overhead street lights within the month.]

7. Bus Stop: Kevin was asked to look into t he long overdue installation of the bus stop for the southbound lane of Palisade Avenue at Griffith Street. A request was made to replace the stop sign at Ogden and Franklin.

8. Riverview-Fisk Park: The play surface in the children's playground will be repaired this summer. Additional tubular steel fencing will be installed to completely enclose the playground. The City has commissioned a $50,000.00 study to inspect the integrity of the cliff retaining wall before any renovations can be started on the eastern side of the Park.

9. Adopt-a-lot: The City has started a new program where it will issue a $250.00 grant to neighborhood groups to clean-up and maintain vacant City-owned lots.

Allison Ferrari Fontana, Secretary

LETTERS to the EDITOR

[Editor's Note: The following is the second letter written by Timothy Sheridan, Director of Constituent Services in response to a RNA member's comment about the lack of City services in our community. The comment was recorded in the RNA Meeting Minutes published in our April 1998 newsletter. As previously stated, RNA welcomes Mr. Sheridan's comments and invites him to any future meeting to discuss our concerns with the responsive of City agencies to local neighborhood complaints.]

I see that my letter was printed in the RNA newsletter.

I read your statement that "the community is struggling or frustrated in our attempts to get the City to respond i an effective and efficient manner to chronic problems of code enforcement, abandoned housing, sanitation, crime, etc." I suggest that you or the constituents who have these problems call our office and inquire how we can help them. If you feel you have in the past, then I will need specifics because I do not know when we have not tried to help the RNA.

If you hold me responsible for problems that you are having with the departments in the City but have not shared them with myself or Maureen Corcoran, Constituent Services Representative for the North district, this would not be appropriate. Mayor Schundler and myself have met with residents of the RNA area on numerous occasions at Mayor Schundler's "Open Door" sessions. I have come to your neighborhood with Mrs. Corcoran on numerous occasions as well as attended RNA meetings. I do not know anytime we have not tried to help.

To assume that their is any animosity or some type of problem is wrong. I am offended that you would print [hear say] remarks without first inquiring or qualifying such a statement. The sentence of my last letter the word "retraction" was misprinted as "reaction". I still await a retraction.

Recycle this Newsletter - Pass it on to a friend!

Bulletin board

ANNOUNCEMENT:

This is the last RNA newsletter before the summer. During the months of July and August, RNA will publish one-page flyers to announce special summer events.

Our newsletter will return in the fall with the September issue.

Anyone wishing to contribute articles, comments, suggestions, recipes, or stories should deliver them to the mailbox on the gate at 232 Ogden Avenue, no later than August 28, 1998.

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Neighborhood Improvement District (NID):

North Six Manager Ronald Clemente can be contacted through his voice mail at **547-4974, extension 8015.** His District includes Ogden and Palisade Avenues from Cuneo Place to Griffith Street.

North Seven Manager Laura Petersen can be contacted by voice mail at **547-4974, extension 8021.** Her District includes Ogden and Palisade Avenues from Griffith Street to Congress Street.

PSEG LIGHTING: If there is a nonfunctioning light in the Park or on any of our streets, call **Pete Magin, PSEG street light manager at 330-6572.**

24th ANNUAL JERSEY CITY CULTURAL ARTS FESTIVAL

This year's event will take place on **Sunday, June 14, 12 Noon to 6 PM** at the Historic C.R.R.N.J. Terminal and Plaza in Liberty State Park. There will be music, dance, arts and crafts and diverse ethnic food selections presented at the festival.To participate in this event, there is a $20.00 application fee for Jersey City residents, and $35.00 for non-residents, food vendors will be charged $60.00 and additional tables are $10.00. For more information, call **Joey George,** the program supervisor at **(201) 547-5522.**

Hamilton Park Festival

The Hamilton Park Neighborhood Association will sponsor its **13th Annual Sunday in Hamilton Park** Festival on **Sunday, June 7, 1998** between the hours of 11:00 am to 5:00 pm. There will be live music by the Walt Whitney Bank, Fashion Heroes and the Victoria Warn Band.

The festival will also include 100's of vendors, ethnic food, raffle prizes and special events, craft demonstrations by local artists, children's activities, realtors, community service groups and a bake sale. Table spaces are available, For more information, call HPNA Hotline at **(201) 610-0094.**

POLICEBEAT

Residents should contact their **Neighborhood Task Force Police Officers Scott Schnee and Lorenzo Tosado, David Murawinski** or **Mark Conroy and Keith Armstrong** if they have a problem, a safety concern or knowledge of criminal activity at **547-5350** (the North District station's frontdesk) or **547-5719** (community service number). When leaving a message, include your name, telephone number, street address, the nature of the problem and the date and time of the message.

In addition, anyone with information about illegal drug use and/or drug dealing, should contact the JCPD **Narcotics Unit at 547-5391.** All calls will be strictly confidential.

A Community Service Survey form is reprinted below. The purpose of the form is to alert the police to particular chronic problems in our neighborhood. Please fill the form out and mail it to the North District at 282 Central Avenue. (You can remain anonymous.)

JERSEY CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT
NORTH DISTRICT
282 Central Avenue, Jersey City, 07307
547-5350: Front Desk
547-5719: Neighborhood Task Force

Community Service Survey

Name:_____
Address:_____
Home Phone:_____
Block Association:_____
Complaint & Observations for the period of_____

List the Locations for the following Problems:

Disorderly Groups:_____
Public Nuisances: _____
Narcotics Activity:_____
Unsafe/Unhealthy Sites: _____
Suspicious Activity:_____
Heavy Trucking: _____
Auto Thefts:_____
Burglaries:_____
Prostitution: _____
Gambling:_____
Other:_____

NEWSLETTER STAFF

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COME TO OUR NEXT MEETING on June 9th at 7:15 PM at the HARBOR VIEW HEALTH CARE CENTER.

Department of Recreation & Cultural Affairs
Division of Cultural Affairs
Caven Point Complex - 1 Chapel Avenue
Jersey City, New Jersey 07305
Tel. (201) 547-5522
Fax (201) 547-4640

JERSEY CITY CULTURAL AFFAIRS
PRESENTS AT LIBERTY STATE PARK

The 24th Annual Cultural Arts Festival Sun. June 14 (Flag Day)
"A Tribute to Morris Pesin's Canoe Trip to Statue of Liberty'
With 120 arts & craft vendors, 30 dance & music performances
Food from around the world and a Children's area. 12n-6pm
C.R.R.N.J. Plaza & Terminal. Free Admission.
For vendor info call 547-5018.

Fourth of July Celebrations - 7:PM to 10:PM (N. Lawn)
Featuring the Garden State Concert Band "Stars & Stripes" Program
Fireworks 9:15 pm. Free Admission, Bring your own chair.

Summerfest '98 - \Free Concerts at C.R.R.N.J. Plaza & Terminal
Tuesdays at 7:30pm Sundays at 5pm

JULY

7 Jazz Ambassadors
14 Bucky Pizzarelli
21 The Hi-Tops
28 Barbara Sharp
12 Tommy Dorsey Orchestra
19 The Ink Spots
26 C.A.S.Y.M. (Pan Steel)

AUGUST

4 John Eckert Jazz Quartet
11 Bill Turner & Blue Smoke
18 Wooster St. Trolley
25 Brasil & Co.
2 David Cedeno Orchestra
9 Jimmy Sturr Orchestr
16 Andrews Sisters Salute
23 Spirit of Life / Footprints
30 Dapper Dans of Harmony

RESERVE THESE DATES !!!

Sponsored by Mayor Bret Schundler and the Municiple Council
Provident Bank, Circle Line Statue of Liberty Tours, N.J. State Council on the Arts, H.C.C.H.A., N.J. Lottery, Liberty State Park.

MEET YOUR FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS
at the next RNA meeting on
Tuesday, June 9th at 7:15 PM

COME ENJOY
the Bargains,
Music and Food
at the
14th ANNUAL
RNA OUTDOOR
FLEA MARKET
on
SAT., JUNE 6TH
in Riverview-Fisk Park
9AM to 4PM

FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE HEIGHTS

RIVERVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
232 OGDEN AVENUE
JERSEY CITY, NEW JERSEY 07307

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RIVERVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE HEIGHTS

RNA

Vito Brunetti
Chairperson

Maria Tuzzo
Vice-chairperson

Allison Ferrari-Fontana
Secretary

Carol Rebelowski
Treasurer

Gary Kenny
Sgt. at Arms

COMING EVENTS

RNA MEETING: Tuesday, June 9th at 7:15 PM
LOCATION: THE HARBOR VIEW HEALTH CARE CENTER

1) **Membership discussion:**
   a) **Flea Market**
   b) **Summer Activities (sports & music concerts)**
   c) **Future Projects**
   d) **Complaints and Concerns**
2) **Police NFT Report**

ATTENTION ALL GARDENERS: **RNA Community Garden** in Riverview-Fisk Park is now open for business. Anyone interested in growing vegetables and flowers, should reserve their free gardening plot. **Allison Fontana, Park Attendant** will be available on Saturdays from noon to one to help new gardeners get started. **Joe Casey, Park Ranger** is now in the Park on a five day a week rotating schedule.